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Alumni Columns

VOL. XII—NO. 5

NORTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE

JANUARY, 1953



A pre-graduation conference of Miss Hilda C. Burnham, director of nursing at the College with four of the first graduates in the three-year diploma program; left to right, Lorraine Dawson, Baton Rouge; Loretta Brabham, Oakdale; Mary Ann Hatfield, Homer; Ernestine Emmett, New Orleans.

Three-Year Nursing Diplomas Are Presented At Fall Graduation Exercises

Something new in Northwestern graduation exercises took place at the end of the fall semester, when along with the regular black-robed candidates for

degrees were also seen the white-robed candidates for the three-year nursing diplomas.

These exercises marked the first time since the establishment of the School of Nursing at Northwestern State College that diplomas were awarded in two of the three curricula in the Nursing Department.

Thirty-seven students shared the honor of being members of the first group to receive the three-year diploma in nursing. Some of the group had completed all curriculum requirements in September, 1952, but had to wait for the regular commencement exercises in January to receive their diplomas. The completion of the three-year program qualified them to take the state examination for the R. N. Certificate.

Miss June Gissler has the honor of being the first graduate in the four-year degree program. Her class will not graduate until May, 1953, but she was able to meet

the requirements for graduation a semester earlier, since she had done some college work prior to

(Continued on Page 3)



Miss June Gissler, the first graduate in the four-year basic degree program.



Miss Mavis Pate, an honor student and the most recent graduate in the two-year degree program for registered nurses.

Foote Brothers Honored By Two Governors

Two brothers, both living in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have just recently been honored by receiving commissions from two governors—one from Texas and the other from Louisiana.

Governor Robert Kennon of Louisiana and Governor Allan Shivers of Texas bestowed honorary titles on Dr. John M. Foote, 1853 Blouin Avenue, Baton Rouge, and Dr. Irving P. Foote, 1967 Oleander, Baton Rouge. These commissions were conferred within a space of three months and without one governor knowing the other governor was honoring.

Dr. John M. Foote received his commission as colonel, aide de camp, on Governor Kennon's staff; Dr. Irving P. Foote was named Texas Ambassador of Good Will in the State of Louisiana for Governor Shivers.

Old Normal Grads

Both brothers are retired school men. Both are graduates of Northwestern State (Old Normal) and received their graduate degrees from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. John Foote spent 28 years with the State Department of Education, serving in the last few years as director of administration and finance. His brother, Dr. Irving Foote, retired in August, 1952, after 28 years of service at Louisiana State University, first as professor of elementary education, and later as professor of school administration.

In accepting Governor Kennon's commission, Dr. John Foote wrote: "I should like to call on you in the near future and bring my brother, Irving, along so that you can meet the Texas Ambassador of Good Will that Governor Allan Shivers has set up in your domain. You might wish to even the score by naming one of your Texas friends as some kind of ambassador in Texas."

The Foote brothers merit a much-deserved rest in their retirement from active service in education in Louisiana. They have left an indelible imprint on our educational system.

SIXTEEN MAIDS ARE ABOUT TO GRADUATE



And Now ... There Are Five

By
MAMIE BOWMAN

Fifty-nine years ago this February, sixteen gay, happy, pretty, intelligent young women had their picture taken with their class teacher, Alby L. Smith, to commemorate their graduation from the Louisiana State Normal School at Natchitoches—now Northwestern State College. The names of fifteen of the sixteen are written on the picture reproduced here. The picture and the names on this picture (Nettie Peabody; Amy Williamson; Myra Woodward (Woodward); Alby L. Smith, Class Teacher; Ruby Roach; Mary Basch; Mamie Cockerham; Mattie Sherrod; Mattie Furness; Ouida Addison; Mattie Hamilton; Myra Rhodes; Eddie Bolton; Emma Johnson; Lelia Holston; Kate Havard) were furnished by Ruby Roach of Mansfield. Evidently the first person on the left of the back row is Charlie Levy, whose name is given by Eddie Bolton—now Mrs. Eddie B. Elliott of 50 Seventieth Drive, Forest Hills, New York—as one of eight classmates she remembers.

The idea of publishing the picture of the Class of February, 1891, with an account of the lives of those still living, was suggested to Mr. Miller, Alumni Secretary, and Miss Pearl Tramel, his secretary, when a letter arrived, addressed to the *Alumni Columns*, dated November 15, 1952. The

letter was written by Myra Woodward, who lives at 1062 Boulevard, Shreveport, Louisiana. In addition to asking that her name be placed on the mailing list of the *Alumni Columns*, she wrote:

"On February 2, 1891, 16 young girls graduated from 'Normal.' They had been directed through the paths of learning by two of the finest men, Mr. Thomas D. Boyd and Mr. Alby L. Smith. Mr. Smith was our training teacher. Miss Bessie Russell of Natchitoches was one of our teachers. We were a happy bunch of girls. As far as I know Emma Johnson Cunningham of Natchitoches, Ruby Roach of Mansfield, and myself are the only ones left."

A letter of November 26, furnished further information—that she has lived at 1062 Boulevard for 31 years; and that she is "not keen" about having her picture published. But she did furnish *The Alumni Columns* with her picture, which although not a recent one, still looks like her, according to her friends. And the sweetness of her expression in the 1891 picture and in the more recent one would suggest that her friends are numerous and that she has contributed and does contribute much to them through her sweetness. Certainly her life touched many

teachers and children during the many years she was principal of the Line Avenue School, before her retirement over ten years ago.

Ruby Roach of Mansfield was written after Miss Woodward's first letter. She gave the address of Eddie Bolton and furnished the "prized photograph" of the class and one of herself taken in July, 1930, for her passport picture when she took a trip to Europe. Ruby Roach's record as an excellent teacher and very beloved member of her family is well-known to people of Mansfield and the surrounding territory.

She writes that Amy Williamson Martin was the youngest member of the class, and that she (Ruby) was the next youngest, celebrating her 78th birthday on November 21, 1952.

When Mrs. Eddie Bolton Elliott was asked for a photograph, she had two made and wrote a short account of her life. Part of her letter of December 6, 1952, follows:

"I have lived in New York City for the past 39 years, and have lost contact with all my former classmates. I can't even recall the names of many of them."

"After graduation in February, 1891, I taught school at Stonewall till 1897, when I married J. T. McClanahan, editor of the Mansfield Journal, and lived in

Mansfield till his death in 1915, when I joined my sister in New York City, where I have lived ever since.

"Just before we graduated, our class had a picture taken, but my copy has disappeared, I'm sorry to say. Emma Johnson should have a copy or probably Ruby Roach.

"The copies of *Alumni Columns* have just been received and it gave me such a thrill to see all the pictures of the buildings and grounds, though, of course, there have been so many new ones. I didn't recognize anything save the columns which formerly were a part of the building occupied by Mrs. Donahoe, our beloved matron.

"I've even forgotten the names of most of our teachers, save Mr. Boyd, Mr. Smith, and Miss Bessie Russell.

"Emma Johnson was my best pal, and I would enjoy so much hearing from her."

When Ruby Roach sent the class picture, she wrote on the back of the envelope:

"I am almost sure that Nettie Peabody is at home in Minden, Louisiana. I forgot about Nettie until I saw the class picture. I heard from her a few years ago."

Miss Tramel wrote Ruby Craton and Miss Roach wrote Mrs. W. H. Luck, Nettie's sister in Minden. Thus the fifth member of the class was discovered. Ruby Craton replied December 23. I quote from her:

"Miss Nettie Peabody is a dear friend of our family. She was my mother's teacher years ago. Miss Nettie has been a teacher in God's Bible School in Cincinnati, Ohio for a long time now. I have been seeing her every summer here in Minden when she came to visit her sister, Mrs. W. H. Luck, who lives at 300 South Broadway. I called Mrs. Luck tonight to ask about Miss Nettie and was told that she was ill in the hospital since Thanksgiving. . . . I am writing Miss Nettie tonight and will ask her to send you a picture if she has one. . . ."

"Mrs. Luck said that Miss Nettie was in the hospital because of a bad case of arthritis. She also said that a letter from her office today stated that she was very much improved."

A letter from Miss Peabody's sister, Mrs. Luck, dated December 22, added the information that Miss Nettie was at present in Christ Hospital, Room 334, Cincinnati, Ohio; and that she had been Ruby Roach's roommate &

Natchitoches.

Then came a communication dated January 1, 1953, signed Nettie Peabody, Registrar, per Esther Keith. A photograph was enclosed. A portion of her letter follows:

"Was glad to receive your letter and am wishing you very much success in finding information concerning the members of the class of 1894. Am glad there are five of our class still living."

"I have made teaching my profession all my life and am now teaching in God's Bible School, Cincinnati 10, Ohio. Am here for the fifty-second year."

"I have been ill for some time now, but am hoping to be back teaching soon."

What a record! It would seem that she has taught continuously since 1894, beginning her sixtieth year.

And last, the fifth of these gay ninety girls is Emma Johnson, best pal of Eddie Bolton while at school, now Mrs. Cunningham. Her picture was secured without her knowledge. Her record in Natchitoches as an indefatigable church worker, sympathetic and loyal friend, and sweet, good wife

is known to everyone in the community and countless others who have spent a few years in Natchitoches or at the college during the past fifty years or more.

Emma Johnson was born December 25, 1875, one of four children, and the only girl. As a child she played the organ in the Methodist Church and continued as organist until recently. After graduating in 1894, she taught one year at Cypress, Louisiana, before marrying her childhood sweetheart, William Tharp Cunningham. In 1945 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. She and "the Judge" were truly sweethearts until his passing away in 1952. At present she is blessed with the company of a favorite niece and the niece's husband as companions in her home.

The *Alumni Columns*, Mr. Leroy Miller, Alumni Secretary, and Miss Pearl Tramel, who had the inspiration for this article and collected the material for it, and the writer salute these five fine gay-ninety representatives of the College as they begin the sixtieth year since their graduation. May the accumulated riches of their years of good living be a blessing and joy to them in the days to come.

Nursing Grads—

(Continued from Page 1)

her admission to the nursing program in September, 1949, the year the Department of Nursing was established. Eleven nursing students are candidates for the B. S. Degree in May.

At the end of the 1952 summer session, Miss Mavis Pate (see inset) was the fifth professional nurse—all five were graduates of a three-year hospital school of nursing—to meet the requirements for the B. S. Degree in Nursing in the two-year program for registered nurses. The American Association of University Women gave Miss Pate its annual award for earning the highest academic average for the year among all women students.

A portion of this program is taken by professional nurses while they are engaged in full-time nursing duty. A large number of professional nurses in Shreveport, Monroe, and Alexandria are enrolled in courses leading to the degree.

In the two programs for basic students, that is, the three-year diploma program and the four-year degree program, the students spend the first two semesters and a summer session on the college campus at Natchitoches. Then in the second and third years they are enrolled as Northwestern Students for clinical instruction and practices at Alexandria, Monroe, Baton Rouge, or Shreveport. The nursing faculty of the College under the direction of Miss Hilda Burnham, director of nursing, works very closely with hospital administrators and nursing-service directors in planning and executing the clinical phases of the program.

For a twelve-week period in the third year, each student is assigned to Central Louisiana State Hospital in Pineville for much-needed instruction and practice in psychiatric nursing.

Students who complete the three-year program may earn the B. S. Degree in nursing at the end of two additional semesters. One semester is devoted to academic work on the campus, and the other semester is divided into two sections: twelve weeks in public-health nursing in a public-health agency, and six weeks in head-nurse management in one of the collaborating hospitals.

Through the genuine interest and cooperation of the State Board of Health and parish health units, several field-training areas have been developed. These enable the

students to qualify for positions in the field of public-health nursing. Caddo-Shreveport health unit, Ouachita parish health unit, Red River health unit, Iberia parish health unit, and the city-parish health unit in Baton Rouge are co-operating in this program.

The collegiate program of nursing was established in 1949, when four Shreveport hospitals—Highland, North Louisiana, Shreveport Charity, and Willis-Knighton Memorial—agreed to discontinue their separate schools of nursing in order that they might combine their facilities with Northwestern State College.

Soon after the establishment of the program several other Louisiana hospitals joined in the program. These are E. A. Conway Memorial hospital in Monroe, the Baptist Hospital in Alexandria, and the Baton Rouge General Hospital.

Attractive dormitory facilities are available to students in the off-campus centers; in addition the students enjoy the same educational and social advantages as they would on the campus. The million-dollar dormitory and educational building adjacent to the new Confederate Memorial Medical Center in Shreveport is nearing completion. It is under control of the board of the Medical Center.

The program has made marvelous strides and now in the fall of 1952 has three hundred fifty-eight enrolled in the three curriculums. This makes the program one of the larger collegiate schools of nursing in the nation.

As an inducement to well-qualified young men and women to enter the nursing profession, the collaborating hospitals provide liberal scholarships. New classes are enrolled each September and January, and all applications should be filed with the Director of Nursing at the College.

An Apology

Your editor sincerely apologizes for the delay in getting out the January issue of the *Alumni Columns*. We shall make every effort to get the subsequent copies to you on time.

Unfortunately, we got mixed up with old man "Flu," and he pinned our shoulders down to the mat. Just like fighting a wildcat—you can't turn him loose even after you have licked him.



Reading clockwise from upper left-hand corner are seen Miss Myra Woodward, 1062 Boulevard, Shreveport; Mrs. Eddie Bolton Elliott, New York City; Miss Nettie Peabody, Cincinnati, Ohio; Miss Ruby Roach, Mansfield; and in the oval, Mrs. Emma Johnson Cunningham of Natchitoches.

THE McMILLANS



Susan, 6; Ann, 2; and Drew, 1, are the lovely children of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. McMillan of 283 Sienna Vista, Mobile, Alabama. Mrs. McMillan is the former Evelyn Horn. A. B. '45, of Many.

Pullig Awarded Ph.D. at L. S. U.

Tillman Rupert Pullig, B. S. '43, of Ashland, has recently received his Ph.D. Degree in organic chemistry from Louisiana State University.

Pullig entered LSU after being discharged from service in 1946. He received his M. S. Degree in 1949. He served as graduate assistant and freshman laboratory instructor during the sessions of 1950-1951 and 1951-1952.

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Cupid's Doings

Miss Theresa Smith of Eunice and Mr. NICHOLAS GENNA, B. S. '49, of Lake Charles were married during the holidays at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in DeRidder. The young couple will live in Lake Charles. Mr. Genna is employed there by the Cities Service.

* * *

Miss JANICE WARD, former student of Minden, and Mr. Calvin Ronald Smiley of Shreveport, were married at First Methodist Church, Minden, on November 15. They will make their home in Shreveport.

* * *

Miss ESSIE MAE GABBERT, A. B. '50, of Alexandria, and Mr. John Lyke Massingill of Many were married on December 27 at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria. The bride has been teaching in Minden since graduating from the College.

* * *

Miss THEOLYN DIENST, an A. B. Graduate in Music, of Shreveport, and Hal Painter Beronius, of Kansas City, Missouri, were united in marriage on January 11 at the King's Highway Christian Church in Shreveport. The bride is a prominent member of the musical groups of Shreveport, having taken the leading role in several musical productions.

* * *

Miss SUNSHINE FLEMING, senior nursing student of Gibsland, and Maurie Wilkinson of Denison, Texas, were married at the First Baptist Church of Gibsland on December 21. The young couple will reside in Shreveport while she is completing her work in the College nursing program.

* * *

Miss Ella Louise Flanagan of Lawton, Oklahoma, and Mr. WILLIS RUFUS GOLDSBY, B. S. '50, of Mansfield, were married recently. Goldsby is now stationed at Olmstead Air Force Base, Middleton, Pa.

* * *

Miss CLYDIE MAE BEACHAM, B. S. '53, of Blanchard, and Rev. Robert L. Price of Pineville, were married on December 24 at the Blanchard Baptist Church. They will make their home in Pineville.

* * *

Miss CARMEN BASCO, A. B. '52, of Gorum, and CPL. RAYMOND SHILLING, former student, also of

JOSH BRILEY, JR.



Josh Briley, Jr., is the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. "Josh" Briley, B. S. '41, of Beaumont, Texas. Mr. Briley is a former basketball great at Northwestern. Soon after graduation, he moved to Beaumont, where he has been employed by the Socony Oil Company.

Gorum, were married at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Church in Gorum on December 14. The bride has been teaching at Sulphur Elementary School. The groom is presently stationed in England with the U. S. Air Forces.

* * *

Miss Clarice Edwards, of Fryeburg, and Mr. DALLAS RAYMOND MADDEN, JR., former student of Ringgold, were married in a double-ring ceremony at the Fryeburg Baptist Church on December 14. The young couple will reside in Ringgold.

Couvillion Named St. Landry School Head

Curry L. Couvillion, A. B. '27, principal of the Washington High School in St. Landry Parish, was named superintendent of schools, effective July 1, at a recent meeting of the school board.

Couvillion was a prominent athlete while a student at Northwestern, taking part in football, basketball, and baseball. He has been principal of the Washington High School for a number of years.

E. S. Aiken Dies

Ewell S. Aiken, A. B. '23, Superintendent of Education of Rapides Parish since 1949, died at Baptist Hospital in Alexandria on January 24, following an illness of about one year.

Aiken was a member of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association, having served in that capacity for a number of years.

Superintendent Aiken was born May 15, 1898. He received his A. B. Degree from Northwestern State in 1923 and his M. A. from Louisiana State University in 1929. He had been in educational work in Rapides Parish for the past thirty years and was planning to retire on July 1, 1953.

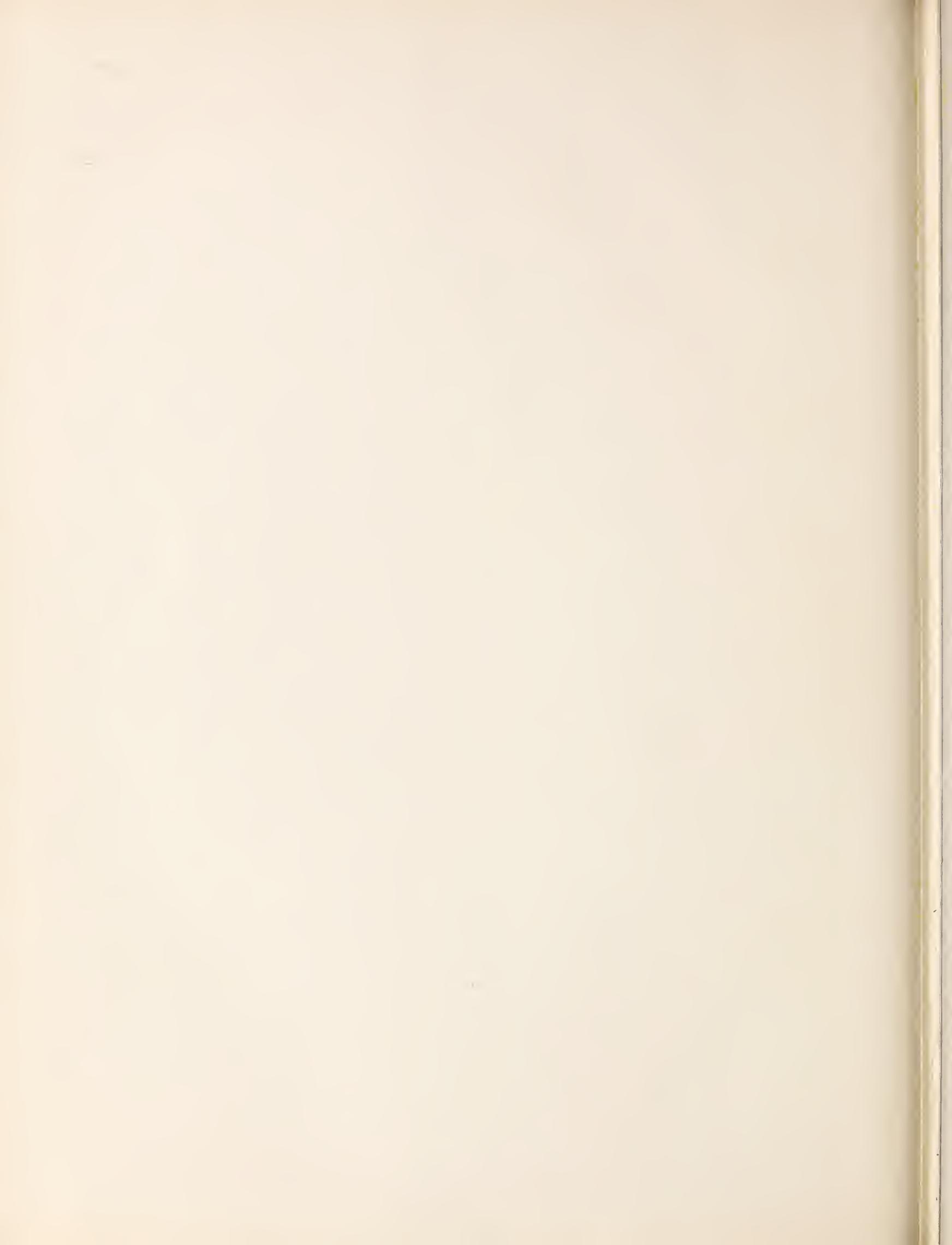
He had served as principal of Glenmora, Lecompte, Forest Hill, and Rosenthal schools in Rapides before being made supervisor of instruction for the parish in 1935. He was later appointed assistant superintendent and in 1949 was elected superintendent.

Rapides Parish has lost an able administrator and the Alumni Association has lost one of its most devoted workers in the passing of Ewell S. Aiken. The *Columns* extends sincere sympathy to the family in their bereavement.

LEAH WORTHAM



Leah Wortham is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Mason Wortham, Freeman, Missouri. Mrs. Wortham is the former Mary Helene Whitby, graduate in Home Economics in 1935. Mrs. Wortham stated that she lives near Kansas City, and she and her husband have watched the Demons play every time they came to Kansas City for the NAIB tournaments.



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